

Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Main Line

An Affiliate of  Family Promise

Ending Homelessness One Family at a Time.

November 2020

Dear Friends of Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Main Line,

In March, just as the Governor implemented stay-at-home orders, Melissa and her three young girls were evicted from their two-bedroom apartment. Two months earlier, an unexpected car repair made her behind in rent. Families like Melissa's, who are living with lower incomes, must often make challenging decisions between paying rent, buying food, getting medical care, and maintaining a car. Melissa needed her car to get to work and the girls to daycare — so she chose the car repair. She hoped her landlord would understand. She was served an eviction notice and then the restaurant she has worked at for the past five years closed due to the pandemic. She and her children were now homeless and unemployed, in the middle of a pandemic.

As we approach the eighth month of a global pandemic, economically marginalized families are being hard hit — 40% of adults with children in the home are currently reporting that they are having moderate to extreme challenges covering the costs of their basic needs. In Pennsylvania, an estimated 17% of renters were unable to pay their rent last month. The life-sustaining programs initially put in place, including stimulus checks, have dried up, and a lift on the moratorium on evictions is on the horizon. Families are struggling today and the continued economic recession and resurgence of COVID-19 cases is straining our health and social safety net systems. Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Main Line has been a source of hope for Montgomery County families throughout the pandemic and our continued services are more important today than perhaps at any other time in our 28-year history.

In addition to assisting Melissa and her children when the pandemic struck, IHN-ML immediately set to work ensuring that families residing in our emergency shelter network had a safe place to stay. Adhering to social distancing guidelines made it impossible for our partnering congregations to provide overnight accommodations. We immediately transitioned our Day Center into a 24/7 residential center — providing three families with safe accommodations. We also made sure none of our graduate families lost their current housing. Through a new service, the Graduate Self-Sufficiency Program, we are providing graduate families with on-going case management focused on housing retention, financial management, connectivity to community supports and benefits, and navigating virtual schooling. All of the families we have been supporting remain stably housed despite the financial struggles of



lost jobs, reduced wages, and lost childcare. Given the enormous strain in our community, we have also just launched a Diversion and Prevention Program that provides rental assistance and case management services to families who are unstably housed or facing imminent eviction.

Because of donors like you, we have been able to increase our services in the community, providing help and hope to Melissa and her girls, and to struggling families across Montgomery County.

With the ever-growing needs in our community, Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Main Line needs your help this year more than ever. With your support, we can make sure families like Melissa's are not left to face challenges alone. Today, Melissa and her three girls are stably housed — Melissa is working and her girls are back in school. **Your gift can make a life-changing difference.**

The costs of operating during a pandemic have strained our budget and the need in our community is growing by the day. As you consider your holiday giving this year, we encourage you to give a special-reaching gift to ensure our critical services remain uninterrupted. Checks can be made payable to Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Main Line and returned in the enclosed envelope. For ease, your credit card information can be filled in on the remittance envelope and then mailed. For secure giving online, visit <https://ihncares.org/>.

Together, we can make sure all Montgomery County families receive the help and hope they need. Thank you for your support and dedication to our community.

With warmest holiday wishes,

Allegra Cressman
Executive Director



The official registration and financial information of Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Main Line may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free with Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. No goods or services were received in exchange for this contribution. Interfaith Hospitality Network is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization — contributions to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.